



Allied Command Transformation - Innovation Branch

## PROJECT MERCURY at NATO COHORT 2 Application

Dear supervisor,

A member of your team has applied to be part of Project Mercury@NATO cohort 2.

Project Mercury is a joint endeavor between Allied Command Transformation and the Innovatrium Ann Arbor, designed to build strong innovation skills, culture, and connections that your unit needs to thrive. Led by a dynamic PhD-level faculty, Project Mercury provides an immersive environment in which individuals and teams have to research, experiment, and take appropriate risks. We require a highly motivated, and diverse group of individuals who are dedicated to building the innovation culture, competencies, and community that NATO and Allies need.

Graduates of Project Mercury are part of a large (+500 members) community in NATO and Armed Forces of the Alliance. Graduates gain valuable tools and connections that will help their unit's innovation culture and drive improved results. The top 20% are given the opportunity to return as Project Mercury mentor coaches, continuing to grow their innovation leadership and development skills.

### **What is your role?**

Project Mercury requires effort but is also very rewarding for both the participant and his environment. These are the fixed activities for this cohort

1. Prework (Mandatory virtual sessions, plus 6 hours of reading)
2. Jumpstart (**TDY 4-6 Feb to Brussels**): This is the **only** part of the program that requires funding from your unit. The remainder of the program (live and virtual coaching fees, other fees and materials) is covered by Allied Command Transformation.
3. Acceleration Phase (Virtual): Participant needs your assistance to build a *minimum* of 6-8 hours/week into their schedule for 12 weeks, including at least 3 hours every Tuesday afternoon and some flexible hours for the remaining requirements.

This is a big ask from your organization, because we are looking for some of your most courageous thinkers--but we firmly believe this investment will reap exponential results. Your participant will need your support to get the space to complete the program successfully.

Finally, on a practical note, if the participation in Project Mercury is ill-timed or mismatched for whatever reason, please let us know that in your endorsement comments so we can use the seats effectively. We have about twice as many applications as seats so every seat counts.

Please enter your endorsement here as soon as you can. Your participant can only be part of this program after your approval:

<https://events.innovationhub-act.org/event/5/surveys/5>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Project Mercury at NATO team, at [projectmercury@innovationhub-act.org](mailto:projectmercury@innovationhub-act.org)